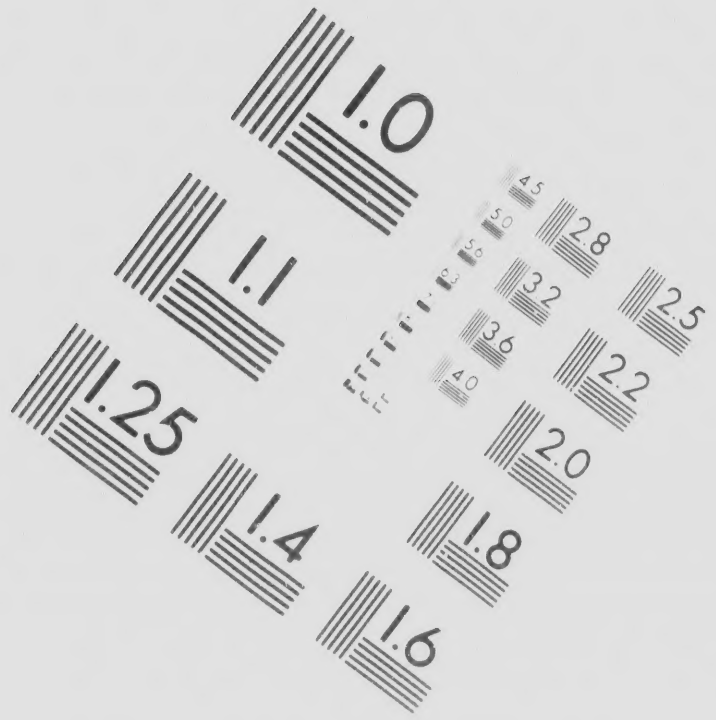

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THE COMMITTEE, conſiſting of Mr. WADSWORTH, Mr. IRWINE and Mr. WHITE, to whom was referred the Petition of the French and American inhabitants of Poſt St. Vincent's and the Illinois, by their Agent, Mr. TARDIVEAU, beg leave to report, That as there is much uncertainty about the poſſeſſions of the inhabitants of the country upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi rivers, and the quantities of land that they may be entitled reſpectively to hold and enjoy, by rights acquired before they became ſubjects of the United States; in order to quiet their minds, to maintain them on their juſt rights, and extend to them the liberality of the United States, they ſubmit the following reſolutions, viz.

RESOLVED, That the Governor of the Weſtern Territory ſhall cauſe to be ſurveyed and laid out, as ſoon as may be, a Tract of Land upon the Wabaſh River, bounded in the following manner, to wit: Beginning at the place where the River a Maries falls into the Wabaſh; and running thence eaſt eight miles; thence north to the ſouthern boundary line of a tract of land lately agreed for by the Board of Treaſury, with Meſſrs. Flint and Parker; thence with that line to the Wabaſh, and acroſs the ſame twenty miles; thence due north, ſo far as to meet a due weſt line drawn from the point of beginning.—Alſo, one other Tract of Land upon the Miſſiſippi, bounded in the following manner, viz. Beginning at the mouth of the Wood River, and running with the ſouthern boundary line of a tract of land, lately agreed for by the Board of Treaſury, with Meſſrs. Flint and Parker, to the Kaſkaſkias River; thence ſoutherly until it meets the Miſſiſippi at the mouth of the River au Vaſe; thence with that river to the place of beginning, and including all the iſlands in that river near to the eaſtern bank of the ſame; which two Tracts of Land will contain and circumſcribe all the ſettlements made by the ancient French inhabitants, except ſuch as may have been within the tract agreed for with Flint and Parker upon the Illinois River, and the rights of each as may have been ſettled thereon, and provided for by the agreement with them.

RESOLVED, That the Governor of the Weſtern Territory ſhall cauſe, as ſoon as may be, due enquiry to be made into the claims to lands of the inhabitants of the country upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi Rivers; and where it ſhall be aſcertained, either by records that have been preſerved in the country, or by authentic writings in the poſſeſſion of the parties claiming, which may not have been recorded, that lands may have been granted to any of the ſaid inhabitants by the French government, or conceded to them by the military officers in command there from time to time—or by the Intendant or other civil officer of that Crown, who may have been entruſted with the diſtribution of lands; he ſhall, provided the quantity expreſſed in ſuch grant does not exceed four hundred acres, on the application of the ſaid inhabitants reſpectively, or of their heirs or legal repreſentatives, cauſe the ſame to be ſurveyed and laid out, agreeably to the deſcriptions in the ſaid writings and records contained, at their own proper coſts and charges; and ſhall grant letters patent, under the ſeal of the government, and counter-ſigned by the Secretary, confirming the ſame to the ſaid parties, and to their heirs and aſſigns for ever; to the inhabitants of the country upon the Wabaſh the lands to be laid out in the tract upon the Wabaſh, and to the inhabitants of the Miſſiſippi in the tract upon the Miſſiſippi.

And whereas it may be, that perſons may have acquired equitable titles to lands under ſome peculiar cuſtoms eſtabliſhed and recognized in the ancient French Colonies, where no actual grants have paſſed in that caſe: RESOLVED, That the Governor of the Weſtern Teraitory, wherever it ſhall be made ſatisfactorily to appear by any of the inhabitants of the countries upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi Rivers, or by the heirs or legal repreſentatives of any perſons who have heretofore been inhabitants of the ſame, that they or their predeceſſors reſpectively had acquired equitable or cuſtomary rights to lands, ſhall cauſe to be ſurveyed for each on their applying for the ſame, and at their proper coſts and charges, four hundred acres of land, within either of the before deſcribed tracts of land, in that upon the Wabaſh for the inhabitants upon the Wabaſh, and in that upon the Miſſiſippi for thoſe upon the Miſſiſippi; and iſſue letters patent under the ſeal of the government, granting the ſame to the individuals and their heirs and aſſigns for ever.

And whereas the country upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi Rivers, was, by the Treaty of Paris, 1763, ceded to the Crown of Great-Britain, and grants of land may have been made to individuals inhabiting there, by the officers of that Crown: RESOLVED, that the Governor of the Weſtern Territory ſhall cauſe like enquiries to be made, as in the caſes of the ancient French in

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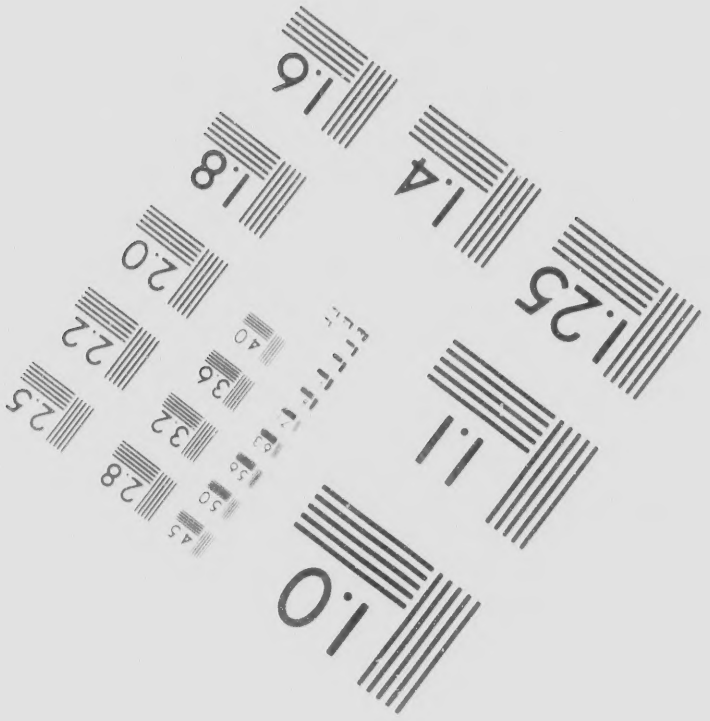

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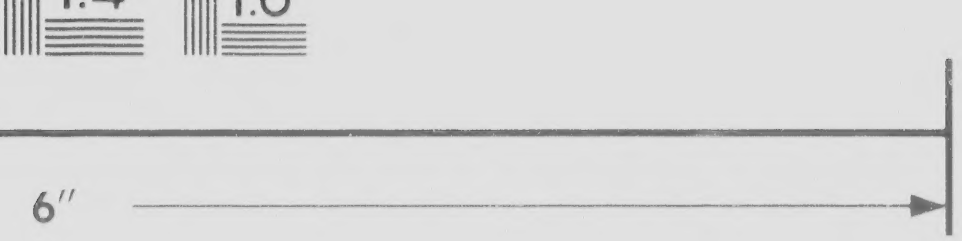

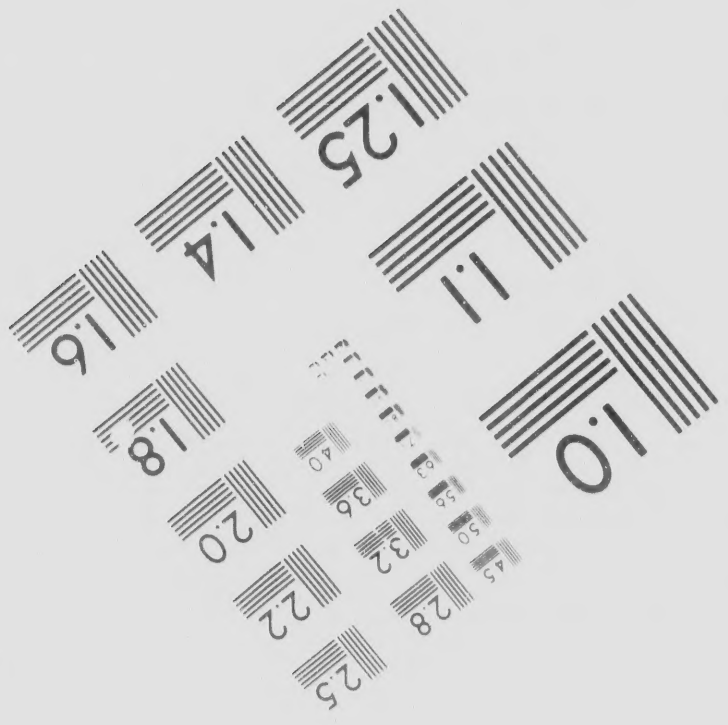

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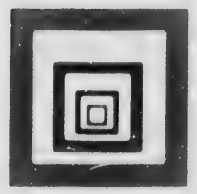

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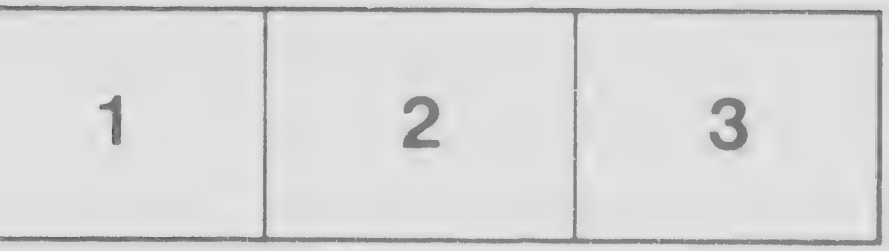

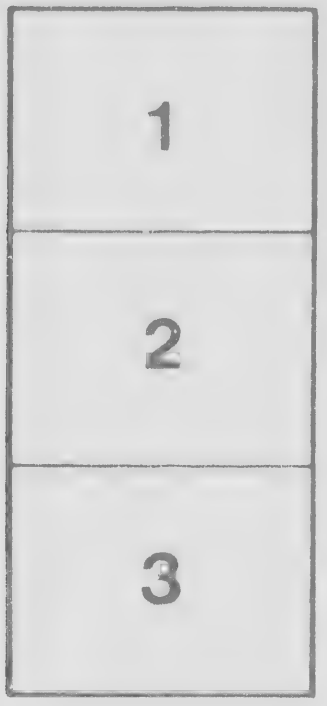

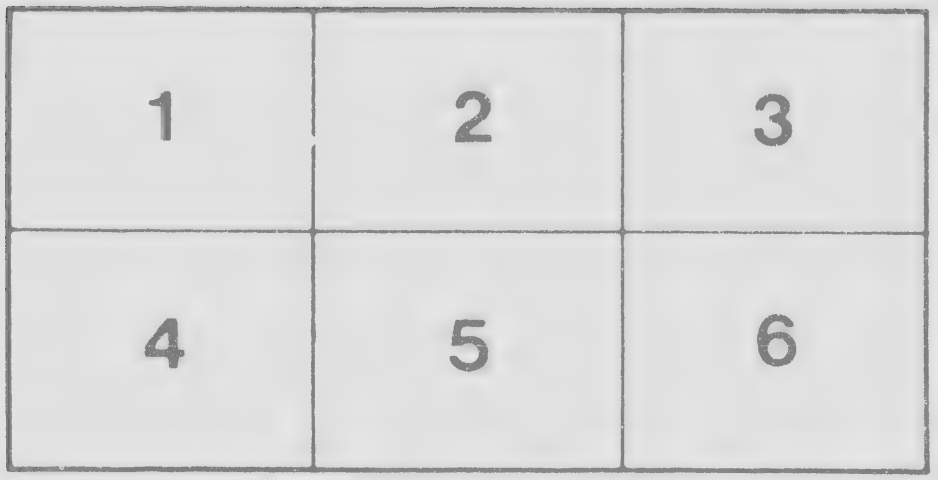

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And whereas the country upon the Wabash and Miſſiſippi Rivers, was, by the Treaty of Paris, 1763, ceded to the Crow of Great-Britain, and grants of land may have been made to individuals inhabiting there, by the officers of that Crown: RESOL VED, that the Governor of the Weſtern Territory ſhall cauſe fit enquiries to be made, as in the caſes of the ancient French in habitants, and order the lands to be ſurveyed and laid out for them reſpectively, within the bounds of the before deſcribe tracts of land; and, under the ſame limitations and reſtrictions, iſſue letters patent confirming the ſame to them and their heir and aſſigns reſpectively for ever.

And whereas from the conqueſt of the country upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi Rivers, until the ceſſion made by the State of Vir ginia to the United States, the ſame was under the dominion of that State, and many perſons may have removed during that pe riod into the ſaid country, and have acquired legal or equitable titles to lands under the laws or cuſtoms of Virginia: RESOLVED That the Governor of the Weſtern Territory ſhall cauſe due enquiry to be made into the ſame, and, upon the ſame being aſcer tained, to order the lands to be ſurveyed and laid out for the perſons claiming the ſame, their heirs or legal repreſentatives, with in either of the before deſcribed tracts of land, and iſſue letters patent confirming them to them, and their heirs and aſſigns fo ever, under and ſubject to the ſame regulations, limitations and reſtrictions, as are preſcribed in the caſe of the French and Eng liſh inhabitants.

And whereas it may be that within the boundaries of the before deſcribed tracts of land upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi River after all the claims of the inhabitants, whether legal or equitable, to any quantity of land not exceeding four hundred acres for eac ſhall have been ſatisfied, there may yet remain an overplus: RESOLVED, That the Governor of the Weſtern Territory ma and he is hereby empowered and directed, upon application, to order the ſame to be ſurveyed and laid out for any perſon or pe ſons, in quantities not exceeding four hundred acres for each applicant; and to iſſue letters patent, granting and confirming th ſame to the ſaid applicants reſpectively, and to their heirs and aſſigns for ever, they paying for the ſame at the rate of per acre, any thing in the powers to the Board of Treaſury to diſpoſe of Weſtern Territory no withſtanding; out of which powers the before deſcribed tracts of land upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi Rivers are hereby expreſ excepted.

RESOLVED, That where the claims to lands of the inhabitants of the country upon the Wabaſh and Miſſiſippi river whether legal or equitable, do not amount to four hundred acres for each; the Governor of the Weſtern Territory may, a he is hereby empowered, at the requeſt of the parties, to grant to the parties a quantity in addition, that ſhall make up fo hundred acres for each inhabitant; and provided, that in all caſes where the claim exceeds that quantity he ſhall report the ſam with all the circumſtances attending it, to Congreſs, for their deciſion: And to the end that the buſineſs may be conducted with ſaf ty and propriety, as well for the United States as for the individuals intereſted, RESOLVED, That the Governor ſhall erect office, where all perſons claiming lands under grants from the crown of France, the government of Great-Britain, or the ſta of Virginia, ſhall preſent the ſame, or authentic copies of the records, where the ſame may have been preſerved, and fro which warrants of ſurvey ſhall iſſue to the ſurveyors to be appointed to lay out the ſame, which ſurveyors, before they ent upon the execution of their office, ſhall take an oath or affirmation of fidelity to the United States, and for the due and faithfu execution of their offices reſpectively, before they enter on the ſame, which warrants, together with plots of the tracts land, ſhall be returned to and filed in the ſaid office, before any patent ſhall iſſue; and in all caſes where equitable titles ſha have been aſcertained, the Governor ſhall certify the ſame, under his hand and ſeal, to the party, which certificate ſhall be re corded in the ſaid office, and warrants of ſurvey iſſued thereupon, and return of the warrants, together with the plots of th land, be returned and filed before any patent for the ſame ſhall iſſue: And the Secretary of the Government ſhall make retur once in every three months to the Secretary of Congreſs of all warrants iſſued by the Governor in purſuance of the foregoi reſolutions.

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